

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

EB-07 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 COME-00 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /111 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC, EINV

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: ILLICIT PAYMENTS WORKING GROUP

REF: (A) USUN 3995; (B) STATE 242005

1. SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 30 INFORMAL ECOSOC ADJOURNED SINE DIE WITHOUT REACHING A DECISION ON SUBJECT WORKING GROUP. G-77 INSIST ON 18-MEMBER GROUP, WHILE WEO'S ARE SEEKING TO ENLARGE IT. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A SECOND APPEAL TO ELICIT ADDITIONAL NON-WEO CANDIDATES. END SUMMARY.

2. INFORMAL MEETING OF ECOSOC ON SEPTEMBER 30 FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE SIZE OR COMPOSITION OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS WORKING GROUP. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION, PRESIDENT AKE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NOT CALL FOR ANOTHER MEETING UNTIL APPROACHED TO DO SO BY MEMBER COUNTRIES.

3. AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL A, G-77 OPPOSED THE EXPANSION OF THE GROUP BEYOND 18 EMBERS (AF-5; ASIA-4; LA-3; EASTERN EUROPEANS-2; AND WEO-4). G-77 REPRESENTATIVES HAVE INFORMALLY CONFIRMED THAT THEIR PROBLEM IS A LACK OF CANDIDATES

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4. PRESIDENT AKE PROPOSED THAT IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF INTEREST BY EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE TWO SLOTS ALLOCATED TO THAT GROUP UNDER THE 18-MAN FORMULA BE GIVEN TO WEO'S, RAISING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THEIR AVAILABLE POSITIONS TO SIX. THIS PROPOSAL CAUGHT THE SOVIET BLOC BY SURPRISE, AND AT TODAY'S MEETING THEY COULD ONLY REITERATE THEIR NON-INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING ON THE WORKING GROUP. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY WILL IN THE LONG RUN NOT ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL.

5. WEO REPRESENTATIVES REMAIN FIRM IN THEIR QUEST FOR NINE SLOTS AND PROPOSED VARIOUS FORMULAS FOR INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE GROUP. NONE OF THESE PROPOSALS WAS ACCEPTED. WEO'S WILL MEET ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

6. FOLLOWING ARE ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR WORKING GROUP:
AFRICA - ALGERIA, NIGERIA, UGANDA, SIERRE LEONE, AND ZAIRE;
ASIA - IRAN, JAPAN, AND PAKISTAN; LATIN AMERICA - COLOMBIA, GRENADA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA; WEO - FRG, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, ITALY, NORWAY, THE NETHERLANDS, THE UK, AND THE U.S.

7. COMMENT: THIS FURTHER DELAY IN REACHING A FORMAL ECOSOC DECISION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE WORKING GROUP MIGHT DELAY THE OCTOBER 11 SCHEDULED MEETING. THE ONLY WAY WE SEE OF ACCOMMODATING THE WEO'S WILL BE TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL G-77 CANDIDATES. WE APPRECIATE THE PROMPT RESPONSE OF THE DEPARTMENT PER REFTEL B. IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCED CANDIDACIES IN PARAGRAPH 6 ABOVE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REVIEW ADDRESSEES OF REFTEL B TO SEE IF WE WISH TO URGE A FEW ADDITIONAL CANDIDACIES.

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